



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • [www.vef.gov](http://www.vef.gov) • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

Lynne A. McNamara, Ph.D.  
*Executive Director*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS PREPARE FOR A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY: VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION SENDS THE 2012 COHORT OF FELLOWS AND VISITING SCHOLARS TO ATTEND TOP U.S. UNIVERSITIES**

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#### **Contact:**

*In the United States:* Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director, VEF U.S. Headquarters Office, Phone: 703-351-5053

*In Vietnam:* Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director, VEF Hanoi Field Office, Phone: 04-3936-3670, Ext: 24, Email: [phuongnguyen@vef.gov](mailto:phuongnguyen@vef.gov)

**Hanoi, June 4, 2012** – [The Vietnam Education Foundation \(VEF\)](http://www.vef.gov), an independent U.S. Federal Government agency, is pleased to announce that 49 new Fellows will begin graduate studies and 6 new Visiting Scholars will undertake professional development programs at 34 leading universities in the United States (see the list below) during the upcoming academic year 2012-2013. The VEF Fellowship Program and the VEF Visiting Scholar Program are two of the outstanding educational programs offered by VEF in its efforts to build the relationship between Vietnam and the United States through educational exchange and capacity building.

Of the 49 new VEF Fellows, 44 will be pursuing doctoral degrees while 5 will be enrolled in master's degree programs at high ranking U.S. universities in various fields of science, technology, and engineering. The fields include biological and biomedical sciences, computer science, epidemiology, food science and technology, forestry, genetics, immunology, plant sciences, statistics, and engineering. The specializations in the field of engineering include aerospace, chemical, civil and environmental, electrical and computer, industrial and systems, materials, and mechanical engineering. With this 10<sup>th</sup> cohort, VEF has placed a total of 424 Fellows at 84 leading U.S. universities since 2003 when the VEF Fellowship Program began operations.

In addition, this year the 6<sup>th</sup> cohort of Visiting Scholars will pursue self-designed postdoctoral training programs at leading U.S. universities for up to 12 months, focusing on various fields in science and technology, including biochemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, mechanical engineering, and molecular biology. With this new cohort, VEF has awarded a total of 38 Visiting Scholar grants since the Visiting Scholar Program began in 2007.

Dr. Lynne A. McNamara, VEF Executive Director, commented, "We are extremely pleased with this outstanding 2012 cohort of 49 Fellows and 6 Visiting Scholars who will join the ever-growing VEF network of U.S.-educated scientists and engineers, and who will make tremendous contributions to Vietnam. The 2012 cohort succeeded in receiving the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar Grants through a highly competitive selection

process based on the candidates' intellectual and academic merit. Congratulations to the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars and to their families, who have helped them reach this point in beginning a remarkable journey that will help them fulfill their dreams!"

To prepare the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their transition to the United States, VEF provides a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) program to be held this year from June 7-13, 2012, in Da Lat (Lam Dong) and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The extensive PDO includes an outdoor experiential learning/team building program that will help strengthen their identity as VEF Fellows and Scholars. The skills and experiences gained from these activities will be useful for upcoming experiences in the United States. Two additional days of lectures and presentations, addressing immigration and visa matters, financial issues, health issues, travel and insurance requirements, cultural adaptation, life in the United States, academic expectations, and maintaining connections to Vietnam will help them prepare for their transition to the United States.

For more information about VEF, please visit the VEF website at: [www.vef.gov](http://www.vef.gov)

### **U.S. UNIVERSITIES (34) HOSTING VEF FELLOWS AND VISITING SCHOLARS COHORT 2012**

1	Colorado State University
2	Cornell University
3	Harvard University
4	Johns Hopkins University
5	Michigan State University
6	Montana State University at Bozeman
7	New York University
8	Northwestern University
9	Oklahoma State University
10	Old Dominion University
11	Polytechnic Institute of New York University
12	Purdue University
13	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
14	Stanford University
15	Texas A&M University
16	University of Alabama at Birmingham
17	University of Arkansas at Fayetteville
18	University of California at Davis
19	University of California at San Diego
20	University of Hawaii at Manoa
21	University of Houston
22	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
23	University of Iowa
24	University of Michigan at Ann Arbor
25	University of Minnesota
26	University of Missouri at Columbia
27	University of Nebraska at Lincoln
28	University of Nevada at Reno
29	University of Rochester Medical Center
30	University of Southern California
31	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

32	University of Tulsa
33	University of Wisconsin at Madison
34	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University